

SB27

When I moved to Maryland, I viewed this great state as one with a reputation for progress. The current law of proving good and substantial reason reduces law-abiding citizens like myself to begging for permission to do something that should come naturally. That is not progress, that is reminiscent of the dark ages. This is about population control and pushes the mindset of we have enough police officers to keep you safe at all times. Well, when I go hiking or hunting with my family deep in the woods, and we cross paths with a rabid animal, there are no police. When I visit some of my work sites in the inner city of Baltimore and have to walk in a suit carrying a computer case past gang members on the street, the police are not to be found. When I'm in a parking garage late at night for a work meeting or public event and undesirables are lurking around my vehicle, the police are not to be found. When my wife must park and walk to her job at hospitals that aren't in great areas, the police are only in the emergency room, not where she is. My oldest son drives a forklift at the local farmer's market. The loading dock is poorly lit and has been burglarized multiple times. Guess what? The police can't be everywhere. I deserve the right to defend my family. Carrying a firearm is not plan A for self-defense. Rather, it should be more like plan C or D after all efforts to deescalate have failed. Regardless, self-defense is an adequate reason for training to carry a concealed weapon. I urge this committee to render a favorable report.